POLICY POSITION ON URBAN CONSOLIDATION

PIA QUEENSLAND POSITION

Over the last decade Australian cities have been undergoing significant demographic and development pressures that will continue to have a major impact on the urban and natural environment well into the future. The drive towards sustainability in recent years has resulted in a reorientation of spatial policies towards a more even balance between greenfield and urban infill development.

PIA Queensland believes that it is inescapable that developable land will need to be used more efficiently if we are to accommodate population growth projections while achieving reasonable standards of access to services and employment and avoiding adverse impacts on areas of productive, ecological or scenic value.

To the extent that there are no practical or reasonable means of limiting population movement between cities or regions in a modern democracy, and that it is desirable and appropriate to protect valuable natural resources, PIA Queensland believes that urban consolidation is an appropriate policy basis for the strategic planning of urban settlements.

PIA Queensland believes that planners, governments and the community need to be informed about the potential advantages and limitations of urban consolidation as a basis for urban planning and growth management policy. Recognition that trade-offs are inevitable with policies that support urban consolidation is essential. However, new policies for urban consolidation need to ameliorate tensions which deliver poor environmental, social and economic outcomes and avoid intensifying perverse outcomes for urban policy at an aggregate level.

POLICY PRINCIPLES

PIA Queensland’s key objective for planning for urban consolidation is to ensure that everyone has the opportunity of living in decent, well designed, safe and affordable home that is located in a community where they want to live.

To achieve this objective, PIA Queensland supports urban consolidation policies which seek to discourage development that does not:

- ensure that a wide choice of housing types is available, that are affordable and meet the needs of all members of the community;
- create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities that are highly accessible to, and support, public infrastructure and urban services;
- deliver high quality, safe and well designed environments;
- ensure that all new, infill development positively improves the local character and environmental quality of the surrounding area. New development should preserve the character and heritage of existing areas and ensure adequate provision and access to open space.

PIA QUEENSLAND ACTION
PIA Queensland will help planners stay informed about the debate surrounding the merits and effectiveness of urban consolidation by:

- Supporting empirical research on urban consolidation and related aspects of urban planning and growth management;
- Regularly publishing information and opinion about urban consolidation and related matters in *Queensland Planner*;
- Including urban consolidation and related matters as a component of the Continuing Professional Development program.

PIA Queensland will help the community understand the benefits and limitations of urban consolidation by:

- Disseminating the results of research on urban consolidation and related matters through press releases and feature articles for placement in the Queensland news media;
- Providing informed and balanced comment to the media about urban consolidation and related matters.